

## CUBA AND THE U.S. -- EVOLUTION OF A 'BAD NEIGHBOR' POLICY

The breaking of diplomatic relations with Cuba and subsequent sharp curtailment of travel by Americans to the Caribbean country continues the United States along a hardening policy that in many ways is a betrayal of basic American concepts. While the general press goes on portraying the Castro regime as little more than a successful Communist penetration into this hemisphere, an impressive bulk of reporting by able, dependable, non-Communist American observers gives a very different picture. These men, while not minimizing the degree of violence and absence of certain important civil liberties in the Castro government, urge that these be seen in the context of a deep-going, greatly needed social revolution. On balance, their almost unanimous judgment of official American reaction to the Revolution is sharply critical, emphasizing such points as the following:

(1) The conditions of corruption, vice and exploitation that had kept the overwhelming majority of Cubans in abject poverty in one of the most fertile lands on earth, were condoned and in many cases cultivated by North American business and criminal interests.

(2) Almost immediately after Castro's accession to power, U.S. policy took on the appearance of lack of sympathy to the point of actual humiliation of Dr. Castro himself. Demands made of the Cuban government in connection with the expropriation of American businesses were clearly impossible for the Cubans, almost bankrupted by the Batista excesses, to meet.

(3) The widely publicized Cuban turn to the Soviet Union and Communist China for help was the only course left Castro by American actions, including the embargo on everything except food and medicine.

(4) United States concern for the "exporting" of Castroism to other Latin American countries, and its action in putting a naval patrol in the Caribbean

### 'Peace Team' Poised for Cuba

A "reconciliation team" of seven respected Americans from church, academic and peace backgrounds, was poised for a flight to Cuba as this issue went to press, depending on a State Department decision as to whether such a mission would be "in the best interests of the United States." The team and its mission were being sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

Reservations for the team's departure on January 20 had been made, but were cancelled by the airline on January 18 when the government ordered travel suspended except where it was for the "best interests" of the country.

Efforts of the team would be to try to reverse the trend of hostility and to find a basis for reconciliation, as well as to issue a report to the American people.

bean to halt Cuban "aggressions," fix on the wrong target. Castroism is winning supporters in much of Latin America, say these men, for the same reasons that it won support in Cuba: because conditions of corruption and exploitation are intolerable. Of Guatemala and Nicaragua, for example, *The Progressive* says editorially, "Both nations are rotten-ripe for reform, if not revolution."  
(Continued on next page)

# Fellowship

PEACE INFORMATION EDITION

Box 271, Nyack, New York

ALFRED HASSLER, Editor

WILLIAM ROBERT MILLER, Managing Editor

PAUL PEABODY, Editorial Assistant

FELLOWSHIP is published twice monthly by the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Re-entered as second-class matter January 1, 1958 at the Post Office at Nyack, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879; additional entry at Lebanon, Pa.

## Cuba and the U.S. (cont'd)

lution," yet in both cases the regimes responsible are supported by the U.S. State Department.

Latin America, like Africa and Asia, is experiencing the surge of revolt against the tyranny of the few over the many, whether political or economic. The aspirations of the revolutionists should strike a responsive chord in the citizens of a country whose own revolutionary utterances, in 1776, sounded so similar. It is a tragedy of our times that we appear to be more concerned with maintaining the status quo than with helping these hungry, angry masses to improve their lot.

## Heidbrink, Kneen to Join FOR Staff; Jones Leaves

One resignation and two new appointments to the national staff of the Fellowship of Reconciliation were announced at the January 17 meeting of the FOR Executive Committee.

Charles Jones, Presbyterian theological student and one of the leaders of the sit-in movement in Charlotte, N.C., resigned from the post of Student Secretary as of January 15. He held the post since September. He is planning to return to seminary to complete the remaining one and a half years of training there.

John C. Heidbrink, Presbyterian minister and director of the Westminster Foundation at the University of Okla-

homa, has accepted appointment to the post of Associate Secretary, with special responsibility for work in the churches. Married and the father of four young girls, Heidbrink has made a notable record as an active peace worker, including participation in the Oklahoma City sit-ins. He will begin work March 1, and will have his office at national headquarters in Nyack, N. Y.

Brewster Kneen, also a Presbyterian, has accepted the post of Student Secretary. A former naval officer, Kneen has been working for FOR among high-school youth on the "Volunteers for Peace" program since last July. He will begin work in his new job on a part-time basis on February 1, and full-time on completion of his last year at Union Theological Seminary in June.

## A "Don't-Miss" Issue

In the March 1 issue of

## FELLOWSHIP

### Cuba

by Sid Lens

*Much has been written about Cuba but we consider this double-length article one of the best jobs of reporting and interpretation to be published.*

### The Congo

*An eye-opening report of the background of the Congo crisis, by the eminent British authority Ritchie Calder. Essential for an understanding of developments there.*

### France

*Jean Lasserre, French pacifist pastor and IFOR secretary, reports on pacifist-led protests against the Algerian war.*

## ORDER EXTRA COPIES NOW

30¢ each

*Special bulk pre-publication price 15¢ each in lots of 10 or more.*

# NEWS from the peace front

The U.S. Supreme Court refused last month to review the conviction of 29 religious pacifists who violated the New York State civil defense law when they refused to take shelter during air raid tests in 1956-57. In an eight to one per curiam (by the court) unsigned opinion, the Court said that the issues presented "were not sufficient to warrant its review."

The group, including FOR Secretary Emeritus A. J. Muste, had contended that the act violates religious freedom and conscience and prohibits them from "peaceably assembling to exercise their rights of free speech to protest law and the philosophy behind it."

Two outgoing Republicans gave the country some startling things to think about last month. President Eisenhower, in an unexpectedly dramatic farewell, warned of the dangers to liberty in the enormous concentration of power in the hands of the military and its scientific and industrial allies. And Ambassador James J. Wadsworth pulled a sizable rug out from under the military by declaring his belief that the "Russian Government has every intention of living up to any agreement they may make from the standpoint of nuclear tests or the larger areas of disarmament." The man who has been chief U.S. negotiator in the protracted Geneva talks on a test-ban added his doubt that the Soviets are carrying on secret underground nuclear tests, and declared that there is no evidence to support such a belief. Charges that such secret tests have been going on have been the basis of recent attempts on the part of military and AEC spokesmen to have the U.S. resume testing.

The New York State Council of Churches renewed its plea last month for a 5-year moratorium on the death penalty and called for a study of the issue by a special legislative committee.

Dr. John Beecher, professor at Arizona State University in Tucson,

resigned from the faculty last month in order to join the pacifist team walking from San Francisco to Moscow. "I deeply regret the necessity of leaving my students in the middle of the academic year," Beecher announced. "I believe, however, that my example in joining the peace walk will be more effective teaching than anything I might now accomplish in the classroom."

The peace walk, sponsored by the Committee for Nonviolent Action, is seeking to spread the message of unilateral disarmament and "to stimulate people all over the world to think about the problem of international peace." Some of the team have already walked over 1,000 miles.

Persons interested in joining the project should write to CNVA, 158 Grand St., New York 13, N. Y.

The United States Court of Appeals in San Francisco, Cal., in December reversed the conviction of Earle Reynolds, who in 1958 sailed his yacht, *Phoenix*, into the forbidden Pacific nuclear test area. The Court said he had committed no more than a "trespass" governed by a misdemeanor section of the law.

Reynolds, following arrest for his act, was sentenced to prison for two years in Honolulu but was suspended for the last six months. He remained free pending appeal.

A 6-man faculty committee at the University of Illinois in Champaign, (Continued on next page)

One of two commemorative stamps picturing Mahatma Gandhi, which was placed on sale by the U.S. Post Office Department on Jan. 26.



**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** Please allow 4 weeks—supply both old and new address.

Ill., urged last month that compulsory military training at the school be abolished. The group recommended that ROTC be placed on a voluntary basis for a 3-year period effective next September.

Military training has been a requirement at the university for 93 years.

\* \* \*

Nigeria broke diplomatic relations with France last month following the latter's third atomic explosion in the Sahara. The Nigerian government said it would no longer allow French ships or aircraft to use Nigerian ports or airfields. It also condemned France's "utter disregard" of African opinions and announced that it would take "still tougher measures" against France if she continues the Sahara as to use an atomic proving grounds.

### **FOR Launches National "Food-for-China" Campaign**

Memories of six years ago flooded FOR circles as the National Executive Committee on January 17 approved a renewed campaign to persuade the Government to offer stocks of surplus foods to a Communist China hard hit by natural disasters.

Though reported only sparsely in the American press, the looming Chinese famine has been widely discussed in European newspapers. Editorials and letters have urged that the United

States be asked to give generously from its \$7 billion dollar stock of surpluses.

Unique in the situation has been the admission by the Peiping government of the seriousness of the disaster. Chinese newspapers headlined the fact that the worst succession of drought, floods, crop diseases and other natural calamities in a century had virtually taken out of production half of China's cultivatable land. In the 1954-55 unsuccessful FOR attempt to move the Government to make such an offer, one of the reasons given by opponents of the proposal was that Peiping denied the existence of any disaster.

The 1961 campaign began with a large advertisement in *The New York Times* of January 22, captioned "If Thine Enemy Hunger..." Thousands of reprints are being distributed, and church and other groups are being urged to take on the campaign. Little grain bags again are being used as in 1954-55, since there are indications that Government officials may not be averse to making such an offer if there is indication of popular support.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

*Every Wednesday.* New York FOR informal luncheon discussion meetings at 12:45 p.m. at the Interchurch Center cafeteria, 475 Riverside Drive, N.Y.C.

### **FELLOWSHIP**

Box 271, Nyack, New York

**SECOND CLASS**  
**Postage Paid**  
**at**  
**Lebanon, Pa.**